

Board of Selectmen's  
November 1, 2012

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents.

**Selectman David Muller joined the meeting by phone.**

**This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.**

**Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:35pm**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Discussion/decision regarding amending the Schedule of Selectmen's meetings for 2013.** After some discussion the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was changed to Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> and the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was changed to Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>. A copy of the schedule is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Tracey moved to adopt the Schedule of Selectmen's meetings as amended today. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Storm update-** Ms. Weinstein urged residents to sign on to Code Red so that they could get updated storm information. We have opened up an emergency shelter which will be open tonight and tomorrow night, and then, based on who shows, we will make a decision as to whether or not to keep it open.

Ms. Weinstein said that we have been doing an assessment of the Town roads over the past number of days. We began today with over 220 road blockages and were able to clear 64. The National Guard came in and cut and cleared several roads that were completely blocked with huge trees. Right now we are working on cutting, clearing and getting access to people who are trapped in their homes. She is hoping that tomorrow CL&P will be able to give us restoration estimates.

Mr. Tracey asked if we knew how many people were homebound. Ms. Weinstein said we have at least 100 people who are trapped in their homes. Neighborhood block captains and police officers have gone door to door to make sure they are okay. They will do that again tomorrow. The elderly that are known to our Social Services teams are the easy ones to keep track of. The Social Services team calls them on a daily basis with "are you okay" checks. Those with medical conditions are getting calls from the health district on a daily basis as well.

Bill Flanagan from Merry Lane thanked the Selectman for all her hard efforts but Weston according to CL&P has the worst situation of any town in the State. There is almost no evidence of CL&P trucks in Town and other small Towns are making progress. Wilton has a list on their library wall of what trucks are in town and what streets they are working on. He feels that we need to hear those types of things because as citizens we

want to hear more about progress, as small as it may be, and less about comfort stations and movies.

Ms. Weinstein said that we have had many many CL&P crews in Town as well as the Nation Guard who came in to assist us. Weston is probably one of the most devastated towns in Connecticut. She has been on the phone with senior officials at CL&P, called the governor, and spoke to Congressman Jim Himes personally to put pressure on CL&P to get more crews in Town. The devastation that Weston has faced has made it impossible to even begin a full restoration process because we still have 166 blocked roads. She had to say to CL&P, rather than beginning with restoring power, we need to get the people who are trapped out of their homes. CL&P's priority is they are supposed to cut, clear and make safe before they start the restoration process. Many of her phone calls today have been regarding why they restoring in other Towns when we still have people trapped in their homes.

On Tuesday morning every single entrance and exit out of Weston was blocked. We could not get an ambulance to Norwalk Hospital so the concentration was Route 57 and Weston Road going towards the Merritt parkway. It took an entire day to remove the trees to clear road down to the Merritt Parkway. They also had the same situation on Georgetown Road and Newtown Turnpike. After the main thoroughfares were done, we started looking to get the people out who were trapped in their homes and from there we would work clearing the rest of the road blockages. That is how we are triaging the process.

Ms. Weinstein said she will not list where the trucks are working. The police had to be called today because residents came out and were harassing the CL&P workers who were trying to cut tree and the workers called 911 for help. The ground crews who are working take their orders from up above so if you see them sitting around they are waiting for orders from the operation center to tell them where to go. If they are switching, sometimes it takes 15 minutes and sometimes it takes three hours and they don't want to pull them off the job because they don't know how long it is going to take.

Mr. Flanagan suggested that Ms. Weinstein include in her messages the number of crews that are working in Town. She agreed that was a good idea and she would include it in her message.

Mr. Harper said he has lived in Town for 62 years and was here for the flood of 1955. He has never seen the devastation that he has observed in this Town. He said everyone is doing the best that they can. It is overwhelming out there to see the amount of trees, telephone poles and wires down around Town. He has never seen anything like it.

## **Open Items**

### **Updates**

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** No new news

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**Regionalization-** No new news

**Any other business to come properly before the meeting.** None

**Discussion/approval of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of October 18, 2012-** This item will be on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

At 8:00 Mr. Tracey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 11/19/12